(b) whether the Miinstry are satisfied with the performance of these representatives; and

(c) what has been the outcome from the point of view of the Ministry of Finance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) From the Ministry of Finance, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister, Dr. M. S. Ahluwalia, Finance Secretary and Shri N. K. Jain, Private Secretary to Finance Minister accompanied the Prime Minister on his official trip to U. S. A. in May, 1994.

(b) and (c) The Prime Minister's visit has been highly successful and led on an improved appreciation of each others point of view on all matters relating to Indo-US economic relations.

Conference of Income Tax Commissioners

7498. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Income tax Commissioners was held recently in the Capital;

(b) if so, the agenda before them and the conclusions reached thereon;

(c) what decisions were taken in regard to bringing out a single page return of income for the individual taxpayer whose number is swelling day by day; and

(d) whether it will be enforced from the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. An All India Conference of Chief Commissioners and Commissioners of Income-tax was held in New Delhi on 13th, 14th and 16th May, 1994.

(b) The following subjects were discussed during the Conference;

(i) Budget collection and Action Plan.

(ii) Widening the tax base.

(iii) Assessment Procedure - Reforms.

(iv) Income Tax Administration.

(v) Search and seizure, survey and prosecution.

(vi) Computerisation in the Income Tax Department.

The Conference gave its recommendations on the following main subjects:

(i) Action Plan targets for Income tax Department.

(ii) Steps for achieving budget collection targets.

(iii) Criteria for selection of cases for scrutiny.

(iv) Widening of tax base.

(v) Administrative improvement in the working of the Income tax Department.

(vi) Expediting disposal of search cases.

(c) A single sheet return form No. 2A for individual resident taxpayers, having total income upto Rs. 1,20,000 and not having any income from business or profession or any brought forward or carry forward losses/allowances under any head of income excepting the 'Income-from House property', has already been issued on 12-5-1994.

(d) The new single sheet return form No 2A has come into force with effect from 1-6-1994 and returns for the assessment year 1994-95 can be filed in this form.

विदेशी ऋणों की अधिम अदायगी

7499. श्री अशोक मित्र : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) विदेशी ऋणों की ऋण अदायगी के संबंध में सरकार की नीति की मुख्य विशेषताएँ क्या हैं ?

(ख) अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय गैर-सरकारी पूंजी बाजार में सरकार के ऋणों की कुल मात्रा क्या है ;

(ग) इस खाते में वार्षिक ऋण और अदायगी की धनराशि कितनी है ;

(घ) ऐसे ऋणों पर देय ब्याज की औसत दर कितनी है; और

(ङ) क्या गैर-सरकारी स्रोतों के माध्यम से इन ऋणों के कुछ अंश को समय से पहले भुगताए किए जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम. वी. चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) (क) सरकार इस समय अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय पूंजी बाजारों से सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों तथा निजी कम्पनियों द्वारा जुटाए गए ऋणों के पूर्व-भुगतान की अनुमति दे रही है ।

(ख) सरकार अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय निजी पूंजी बाजारों से सीधे उधार नहीं लेती ।

(ग) से (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठती ।

Refund of Excise Duty

7500. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 181 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th March, 1994 and state:

(a) whether any steps have since been taken to refund or adjust the excess recovery of excise duty on equipments like heat exchangers including cooling and condensation made under the notification inadvertently issued hiking the excise duty leviable on such items from 15 per cent to 110 per cent instead of reducing it from 15 per cent to 10 per cent as per Finance Bill 1993; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay; and

(b) whether inquiry has since been made into the very act of issue of the impugned notification and respansibility fixed for much abrupt hike in duty instead of reducing the same as provided in respect of items under the relevant head (84.19); if so, with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) The matter is still under active consideration with reference to the existing legal provisions under the central excise law.

(b) The description of the goods was changed without any intention of changing the scope of the exemption. The error was entirely due to inadvertance.

MOU between India and US on Narcotics

7501. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SMT. VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum of understanding had been signed between India and the US during the recent US visit of the Prime Minister, on cooperaton to combat the menace of production and distribution of narcotics; and

(b) if so, the details of the stipulations thereof, indicating the obligations of each side?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to effectively address all aspects of the drugs problem, the two countries intend to carry out joint, cooperative, long-term programmes to raise awareness of and build support for anti-narcotics activities.